

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02851 090839Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3101
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP EMIN BC
SUBJECT: VISIT OF GOB MINERAL RESOURCES AND WATER AFFAIRS CHIEPE

REF: A) GABORONE 2736 B) STATE 225729

1. SUMMARY. DR. CHARLES JOHNSON TELEPHONED SEPTEMBER 7, PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF B, TO CONFIRM MINISTER CHIEPE'S PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AS OUTLINED REF A BUT ADDING THAT UNAVOIDABLE OBLIGATIONS HAVE FORCED DELAY OF ONE WEEK IN HER ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON, I.E., TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1. JOHNSON SUGGESTED SOME SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND AGAIN CONFIRMED INTEREST IN AID AND STATE MEETINGS. HE NOTED AMBASSADOR MOOKODI WAS BEING INFORMED OF THE VISIT WITH SUGGESTION THAT DETAILS BE COORDINATED WITH DEPARTMENT. APPRECIATE FAVORABLE INDICATIONS THAT USEFUL PROGRAM WILL BE POSSIBLE. AT JOHNSON'S REQUEST WE SUGGESTED MOOKODI CONTACT KEITH MCCORMICK. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHNSON CALLED ME TO SAY MINISTER CHIEPE
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HAS APPROVED THE VISIT AS OUTLINED REF A AND HAD ONLY CHANGES IN TIMING AND SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA TO ADD TO PREVIOUS SCHEDULE OF HER TRIP. HE SAID THE MINISTER WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY PERMANENT SECRETARY JULIAN NGANUNU AND HIMSELF (DR. JOHNSON). REGRETTABLY, BECAUSE OF UNAVOIDABLE OBLIGATIONS, THE DATE

OF MINISTER CHIEPE'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON HAD TO BE DELAYED BY ONE WEEK, I.E., TO NOVEMBER 1. THE PARTY EXPECTS TO ARRIVE BY SHUTTLE FROM NEW YORK THAT MORNING AND WOULD BE READY FOR SCHEDULING LATE MORNING NOVEMBER 1 AND ALL OF NOVEMBER 2 AND 3. (JOHNSON NOTED TWO MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN PROMISED IN WASHINGTON; HE THOUGHT THESE COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF IN ODD HOURS.)

3. JOHNSON REAFFIRMED MINISTER CHIEPE'S INTEREST IN COURTESY CALL ON INTERIOR SECRETARY AND SENIOR AID/STATE OFFICIALS AS CAN BE ARRANGED. (JOHNSON IS OUT OF TOWN TODAY; WE WILL ADVANCE NEXT WEEK THE POSSIBILITY OF CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY JAMES JOSEPH UNLESS DEPARTMENT INFORMS US THAT SECRETARY ANDRUS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 1.) DETAILS ON AID/STATE CALLS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH AMBASSADOR MOOKODI.

4. TURNING TO MINISTER CHIEPE'S SPECIFIC INTERESTS, JOHNSON SAID SHE WOULD FIND MOST HELPFUL A PRESENTATION BY BUREAU OF MINES STAFF SPECIALISTS (FOLLOWING CALLS AS EARLIER PROPOSED) CONCERNING "MARKET AND PRICES" ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOUR OR POSSIBLY MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EIGHT SUBJECTS: COPPER, NICKEL, COBALT, SODA ASH, STEAMING COAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, URANIUM, INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS AND ECONOMICS OF LONG DISTANCE MINERALS TRANSPORTATION.

5. CONCERNING GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MINISTER'S INTERESTS ARE IF ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC THAN PREVIOUSLY STATED CONCERNING DESIRE FOR US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ASSISTANCE IN EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN KALAHARI. JOHNSON NOTED GOB IS ANXIOUS TO "ACCELERATE" WORK IN THE KALAHARI AND HAS THEREFORE INVITED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND FIRMS TO UNDERTAKE ON THE GROUND EXPLORATIONS. HE SAID THERE IS "LOTS OF KALAHARI LEFT TO EXPLORE" AND THEY NOTE US IS ONE OF THE FEW MAJOR COUNTRIES THAT IS NOT NOW ACTIVE IN EXPLORATION. HE NOTED US PRIVATE FIRMS ARE WELL REPRESENTED, HOWEVER.

6. JOHNSON CONCLUDED BY SUGGESTING THAT AMBASSADOR MOOKODI AND AF/S CONSULT ON DETAILS.

MINISTER CHIEPE WOULD BE "VERY GRATEFUL" FOR
ANY ADVANCE INDICATION THAT BRIEFINGS
PROPOSED PARA 4, ABOVE, WOULD BE POSSIBLE.
ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY
RESPONSE (A) AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD GO AHEAD
AND PROPOSE COURTESY CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY
JOSEPH, AND (B) WHETHER THE PRESENTATIONS ON
COMMODITIES WILL BE POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION,
ANY REACTIONS TO PROPOSED US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
ROLE IN EXPLORING KALAHARI WOULD BE USEFUL
GUIDELINES FOR THE MINISTER.
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